have so far developed 858 ha., brackish water area ponds. The Government of India have also approved one Brackish-water Fish Farmers' Development Agency for Orissa during 1987-88.

A sum of Rs. 33.95 lakhs has so far been released to the Government of Orissa for the Central Sponsored Scheme of brackish-water fisheries development in six projects sites.

The Marine Products Export Development Authority is establishing a prawn hatchery at Gopalpur in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 256.43 lakhs.

Loss caused by drought in Andhra Pradesh

10. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central team had recently submitted their report to the Government regarding the severe drought in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total loss caused by the unprecedented drought in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the assistance sought by the Andhra Pradesh Government to meet the requirements of the drought-hit people and the Centre's response to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of loss as reported by the State Government due to drought is given below:—

(i) No. of Districts affected: 18.

(ii) No. of villages affected 5,351.

(iii) Population affected: 272.90 lakh.

(iv) Cropped area affected. 34.00 lakh ha.

(v) Cattle population affected: 142.86 lakh.

(c) Central assistance of Rs. 68.948 crores has been approved for drought relief in Andhra Pradesh against the request of the State Government for Rs. 546.50 crores.

Import of pulses by NCCF

11. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently asked the National Consumers Cooperative Federation (NCCF) to import pulses; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Housing Policy

12. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new housing policy has since been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the policy; and

(c) by when this policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The draft National Housing Policy is under finalisation.

Slums in India

13. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Sixth Plan estimate, one fifth of the total urban population of India lives in slums;

(b) whether this trend is increasing; and

(c) if so, what are the steps taken to check the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the rapid urbanisation in the country, the slum population is also likely to increase. However, no comprehensive survey of slum population has been undertaken at the all-India level.

(c) Growth of slums is linked to management of urban land and housing stock which are State subjects. However, the Central Government provides policy guidelines coordinates the efforts of the State Governments and also provides financial assistance in certain cases. As a preventive step the Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) envisages to reduce rural urban migration to major matropolitan centres. As a curative step the State sector Scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS) aims at environmental improvement of urban slums in city by providing basic amenities. The Centrally sponsored Schemes of Urban Basic Services also envisages to improve the quality of life of urban low income families by ensuring active involvement of the community.

Payment of arrears to the sugarcane growers

14. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of arrears due to the sugarcane growers as on 31st October, 1987 in the country;

(b) what are the names of the states which have to pay the highest arrears; and

(c) what steps Government have aken to clear these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The position of cane price arrears is available upto 15th October, 1987. As on that date, out of the total price of about Rs. 2129 crores for the 1986-87 season, Rs. 2112.8 crores had been paid to the growers, leaving a balance of about Rs. 16 crores. Besides arrears amounting to about Rs. 8.4 crores pertaining to earlier seasons are also pending.

(b) The States where arrears are comparatively high are Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradedsh.

(c) Ensuring expeditious payment of cane price is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, who have the requisite powers and field organizations to enforce payments. The Central Government has been monitoring the position and the State Governments were addressed at the highest levels to ensure timely payment to growers. Besides, Central Government has taken, during the last couple of years, certain policy measures aimed at improving the liquidity of the industry to enable it to pay the sugarcane prices promptly. These measures include raising the statutory minimum price of sugarcane, increasing the proportion of free sale sugar granting excise duty rebate for early/late crushing etc. As a result of the efforts made by the Central and State Governments, the arrears for 1986-87 stand at 0.8 per cent only as on 15.10.87 in spite of record crushing during the season.

Housing for rural landless by the HUDCO

15. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the outline of the scheme which was launched by the HUDCO for providing houses for the rural landless labour; and